

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 17948-US-PA
Application No.: 10/691,565

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Presently pending claims 1-18 are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-5 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori et al. (JP 2001-006879; hereinafter Fujimori). Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 10 to improve clarity. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set for the below.

1. In the present invention, as for example shown in FIG. 2A, FIG. 2B, and FIG. 3, the buffer pad 13, 24 is fully located within the pixel area, and is sandwiched between the first electrode 22 and the second electrode 26.

2. The Office Action in "*Response to Argument*" states that the insulating layer 3 of Fujimori is considered as the claimed buffer pad. The pixel area is defined between the spacers (8). The insulating layer 3 has extended into the pixel area. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As recited in independent claim 1, the buffer pad is sandwiched between the first

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electrode and the second electrode, fully within the pixel area. Independent claim 10 also recites that the buffer pad is fully in the pixel area.

3. In re Fujimori, as shown in Fig. 5, between two adjacent the spacers 8, it includes several pixel areas, respectively corresponding to the different electrodes 2 (also see Fig. 2). Therefore, the spacers 8 are not used to define the pixel area. *Actually, the insulating layer 3 is used to define the pixel areas.*

In Fig. 9, it is a cross-sectional view along the line x-x' in Fig. 5. Apparently, the insulating layer 3 is not fully sandwiched between the electrodes 2 and 14. The spacers 8 are not used to define the pixel areas.

4. Even though Applicants respectfully disagree with the consideration by the Office Action, if Applicants take the consideration of the Office Action by treating the insulating layer 3 as the buffer pad of the present invention, the insulating layer 3 has *extended under the spacers 8*. The spacers 8 are not the pixel areas. In this situation, the insulating layer 3 is still not fully in the pixel area.

5. Based on the disclosure by Fujimori or the consideration by the Office Action particularly in "Response to Argument", Fujimori failed to disclose all features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 10, and dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-17.

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Discussion of Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the same foregoing reasons applied to claim 1 and 10. Dependent claims 6 and 18 are not disclosed by the prior art reference.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 10 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-9 and 11-18 patently define over the prior art references as well.

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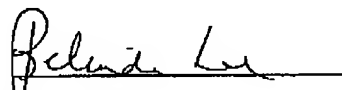
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-18 of the invention patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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